

The original Sept 11th Chile 1973



Lessons of the coup

8pm Thursday 18th September
Day's Hotel, off Great Victoria St
All Welcome

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In the mainstream media, Sept 11th is a day of commemoration of the tragic events in the US two years ago. What has not been commemorated by the media though is the original Sept 11th 1973, when the US government backed a military coup against the democratically elected socialist government in Chile.

The election of Salvador Allende (Socialist Party) as President and the election of the left-wing Unidad Popular government in 1970 was greeted with great enthusiasm and hope by working and poor people throughout Chile, Latin America and internationally. The government had been elected with a mandate to bring about socialist change. Although being a relatively wealthy country with rich mineral resources, Chile was cursed with huge poverty and inequality. A tiny percentage of people owned the vast majority of land. US multi-nationals exploited workers and the resources of the country.

The election of Allende came on the back of big struggles of the Chilean working class and rural workers. When the government started implementing reforms such as the nationalisation of key industries, US imperialism demanded that Allende be overthrown and that the developing Chilean revolution be smashed. So much for democracy!

The Pinochet led military dictatorship's bloody coup resulted in the massacring of an estimated 30,000 – 40,000 trade unionists, socialists and workers.

Come along to this public meeting to hear a comprehensive description of those events and to discuss what relevance the events of Chile '73 have for the workers movement today.

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